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Finance Committee Minutes 02-28-2001

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING, Feb. 28, 2001

7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING

ATTENDEES:

Phelps*	Feinleib*	Kocur	O'Neill*	Mahoney
DeCoursey	Villandry*	Simmons*	Mazmanian*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan	
Scoppettuolo	Franclemont*		Olsen	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Tosi*	Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Town Counsel John Maher, Elsie Fiore

MINUTES of 2/21/01 approved.

ARTICLE 77 LAND ACQUISITION SYMMES HOSPITAL: Maher, supported by Foskett, reviewed reasons, stated in his recent mailing to the FinCom, why the BOS would like to acquire this property. The main reason is fear of Chapter 40b development. They expect, at current rates, the property leases would pay off the Town's investment promptly. They described an initial organizational meeting. An independent appraiser has been hired jointly by the Town & Lahey to estimate both current market value and renovation cost. The report is due mid-March. FinCom questions established that there is considerable risk in this acquisition. Maher hopes to have an info pkg ready before the 3/13 mtg. He will return at that time to seek FinCom support.

ARTICLE 5 BUILDING MORATORIUM: Fiore explained at length her reasons for sponsoring this article. She believes there is too much poorly-considered development in Arlington. She believes the special permit process should be used only by exception. She is hopeful that the moratorium will allow the numerous zoning bylaw improvements being considered to affect more projects.

Foskett to obtain building permit revenue. A majority of the FinCom felt this measure would damage the Town's economic health. A minority felt that this matter is not FinCom business.

VOTED: No action 11-0-1.

ARTICLE 70 MINUTEMAN TECH: The FinCom received a letter from the BOS requesting advise on whether to approve the latest assessment plan. Phelps recommended support. The plan would allow Arlington to be assessed by Ed Reform and then pay 1/3 the difference between this figure and assessment-by-agreement, perhaps \$70k.

VOTED To support the proposed assessment approach. Unanimous Phelps to inform BOS by phone.

ARTICLE 52 EXPANSION OF RECYCLING: Sponsors say they have withdrawn support because of cost.

VOTED No Action Unanimous Report will explain the vote.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

School SubCom reported the School Committee has approved their full budget. Some state aid increase is expected. Detailed info was supposed to have been delivered to Chair.

Meetings are scheduled for March 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28; and April 9, 11 -- all in the Bob O'Neill Room at the Community Safety Bldg. Chair requested members hold 4/10, 11,12 open also.

Agendas:

3/5 Parks&Recreation

3/7 8:00 Permanent Town Building Commission; 9:00 Capital Budget

3/19 7:30 Land Acquisition Art 77, 79, 80

3/21 School Committee

Peter B. Howard, Secretary